

Regional Laboratory Technical Information Group: An Internal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Group Founded on Collaboration and Open Exchange of Ideas and Information

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This presentation will introduce the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Laboratory Technical Information Group (LTIG) as a valuable recourse that exists within the U.S. EPA that can offer a vast collection of environmental analytical expertise to the U.S. EPA and other government entities and private sectors. This presentation will demonstrate the effectiveness of using the many media tools available to provide us with collective knowledge to solve environmental problems.

The LTIG is a collection of analytical scientists from across the nation linked by e-mail, teleconferencing, and an annual conference. We exchange ideas, experiences, and information to overcome the challenges of collecting environmental data and to support the public by answering technical questions about environmental analyses and sampling. The group meets once a year to exchange our knowledge gained over the past year and to help one another plan future endeavors. Subgroups of the LTIG specific to classes of analyses have monthly conference calls and maintain contact through e-mail groups. We discuss new analytical instrumentation, difficult samples, and new analyses of emerging and existing concern, and we field questions that come from the public. The combined expertise of the participating laboratories throughout the U.S. EPA builds an immense wealth of experience that benefits every citizen. The primary participants are the 10 regional laboratories, and we include many of the other U.S. EPA labs such as the National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC), Office of Solid Waste, Office of Water, Pesticide, and RTP. The subgroups specialize in Inorganic, Organic, Metals, Air, and Microbiology. Some splinter groups from the LTIG include an SWR methods workgroup and the NELAC workgroup, and we have many members who helped create the *Homeland Security Standard Analytical Methods Manual*. We also have answered many questions from a wide range of companies, such as Pepsi Cola and the World Bank, and many private environmental laboratories. If you have a question about an analytical method, sample, or compound of interest, give us a call and we will be glad to help.